



City of St. Helens Gazette

Issue 41

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Fall/Winter 2017

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City Plans for Street Improvements to Business/Industrial Corridor Loop

In 2015, the City of St. Helens purchased the former Boise Veneer Mill and White Paper sites and launched a [Waterfront Redevelopment Project](#). This large project has included many smaller projects with an overall goal of guiding the revitalization of these key pieces of property along the Columbia River. In order to help with the costs of redevelopment, the City has applied for and received several state and federal grants. These grants have allowed the City to conduct site assessments, hold meetings to gather community feedback, and create a framework plan for development.

One important piece to the successful redevelopment of the St. Helens waterfront will be transportation improvements from Highway 30 to the Columbia River. Thanks to a new grant, the City is currently working on a Riverfront Connector Plan to decide what improvements need to take place and what those improvements will look like.

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City of St. Helens

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The Gazette is an informational publication released by the City of St. Helens on a quarterly basis. Copies are available at City Hall or online at the City's website: www.ci.st-helens.or.us.

We welcome your feedback. If you have any ideas, comments or questions, please contact Crystal Farnsworth via phone at 503-366-8215 or email at crystal@ci.st-helens.or.us.

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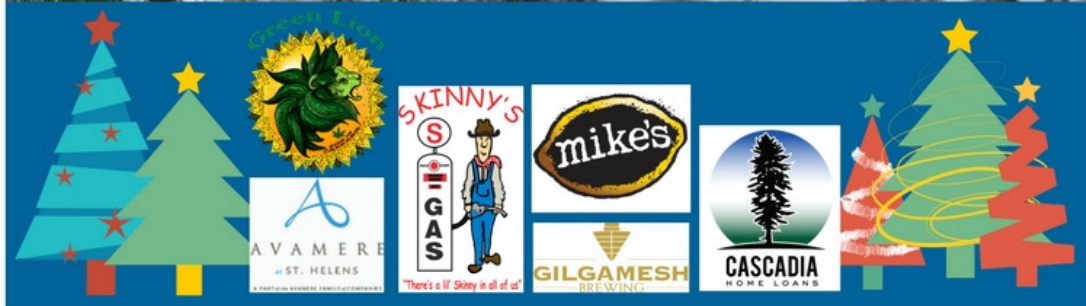
St. Helens Community Tree Lighting & Christmas Ships



**Saturday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.
St. Helens Riverfront District**



**Santa & Mrs. Claus, photos with princesses, tree lighting,
Christmas Ships, music, coffee & hot chocolate, holiday photo ops**



Holiday Office Closures

City offices will be closed on the following dates in observance of federal holidays. This includes St. Helens City Hall, St. Helens Public Library, Public Works City Shops and the administrative office at the St. Helens Police Department.

- **December 25: Christmas Day**
- **December 26: In observance of Christmas Eve**
- **January 1: New Years Day**
- **January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



St. Helens Police Department Donut Day

The St. Helens Police Department is pleased to partner with the Columbia Pacific Food Bank in its fifteenth annual Donut Day this December 9, 2017. Donut Day is an annual tradition at the Police Department that allows people to trade their canned and non-perishable food items for fresh Krispy Kreme donuts.

Starting at 7 a.m., guests will be able to visit the St. Helens police station at 150 S. 13th Street and trade one can of food for one donut, up to two dozen donuts per person. Donuts will also be available for purchase at \$10 per dozen. The event will continue until all of the donuts are gone.

Rather than just a canned food drive, Donut Day has evolved into a family friendly event that has much more to see and do.

Santa Claus and some of his special guests will be making appearances throughout the day. Guests are encouraged to bring cameras and take holiday photos.

KOHI AM 1600 will be broadcasting the events live on the radio.



Santa and Mrs. Claus with St. Helens police officers at the 2016 Donut Day event.

Live musical talent will perform throughout the day, including the St. Helens High School band and choir.

Donut Day has become one of the largest single-day food collection events for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Over the years, Donut Day has resulted in the collection of 50,000 pounds of food and over \$40,000 in cash for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

"Our fifteenth annual event promises to be very special," said Chief Terry Moss.

Guests are encouraged to show up early to ensure their share of the donuts. While 325 dozen donuts will be on hand, they can go quickly.

From the Desk of Mayor Rick Scholl



It takes a lot of hard work to make a city run. We have many volunteers and committees that help us do great things in St. Helens, and many

activities wouldn't happen without their help. Thank you. I would also like to thank the City staff for their hard work. This year, Halloweentown was bigger and better than ever, with international visitors to our community. We can now look forward to the upcoming Community Tree Lighting and Christmas Ships Parade on December 9.

It has been a busy first year for me as mayor. A lot of people may not recognize how much we have going on at the City. This year, we went through a Branding & Wayfinding Master Plan, we began recruiting developers for the waterfront project, had PSU masters students work on a Columbia View Park expansion project plan, and adopted an Urban Renewal District. We also expanded the newly named Wauna Credit Union stage in Columbia View Park thanks to a sponsorship from Wauna Credit Union, put in a new covered picnic shelter at McCormick Park with grant funds and did several improvements to Nob Hill Nature Park with help from grant money. This is all in addition to many other projects that City staff have been working on.

Next year, you can look forward to more visible action as we begin to construct projects that we have been planning for this past year. The McCormick Park Veterans Plaza will be expanded and a new non-motorized boat launch and restrooms should be installed thanks to grant funding at Grey Cliffs Park. We will also be working on a Riverfront Connector Plan to make improvements to St. Helens streets that connect down to the waterfront.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your mayor. I look forward to working with you all next year.

Sincerely,
Mayor Rick Scholl

Historic City Hall Gets Facelift with Help from Grant



Before (left) and after pictures of the St. Helens City Hall façade work.

The St. Helens City Hall façade was recently renovated with the help of grant funding from the Certified Local Government Grant Program through the State Historic Preservation Office. The City was awarded a \$12,500 grant to assist with the \$43,000 project.

The project cleaned and repaired the mortar joints between the hard, basalt masonry units, about two-thirds of which had deteriorated. The weathered

mortar was causing water to leak into the building, further damaging the structure.

St. Helens City Hall was originally built in 1908 as the Columbia County Bank. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the St. Helens Historic Downtown District in 1983. It has only undergone minor alterations since it was recognized.

From the Desk of the City Council



Doug Morten

Wow! The citizens of this community certainly know how to celebrate! Spirit of Halloweentown

gained national and international recognition this year with the media, thanks to the countless volunteers and community activists who rolled their sleeves up and made the variety of activities successful! A tremendous turnout for all ages. We all had fun! A big thank you goes out to all of you who participated as well as the City's staff and crews that went the extra mile with their dedicated work to make it happen.

Speaking of participation, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all those individuals that testified or submitted written testimony regarding the sugar/soda beverage tax study presented by City Finance Director Matt Brown at our recent public forum. The study was requested by the Budget Committee to research alternative ways to fund the maintenance and upgrades for our City parks.

The issue raised major concerns amongst our retail business community and a strong majority of citizens in general. The important outcome was that your voices were heard and recorded as part of the record. Responsive citizen involvement is what makes an effective, open democracy function. Sure, it took some time and effort, but it gave our community the opportunity to express their concerns in a civil manner. It brought about an awareness of health concerns, along with ideas for effectively funding our parks. Furthermore, it gave our community the opportunity to hear the deliberations of the Council as we openly weighed in on the issue.

Citizen involvement in City affairs makes for good governance. I encourage you to attend future public forums and meetings to voice your concerns and know where your Council stands on important issues. Together, let's keep our City government open and trustworthy.

Respectfully,

Council President Doug Morten
Parks & Public Works Commissioner



Keith Locke

A very Merry Christmas to all of you. I hope that you have wonderful plans for this holiday

season. While you are in the festive mood during this time of year, please remember those that are less fortunate and give what you can. There will be many opportunities, and one of the upcoming events is on December 9. The St. Helens Police Department will be giving away Krispy Kreme donuts for those that donate food for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

The Christmas Ships will be putting on a light show for us on December 9. Come and enjoy the event down by the waterfront. The ships head out onto the river by 6 p.m. after the community tree lighting.

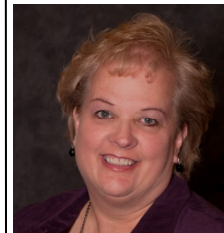
Do you walk or ride a bicycle around town? Do you ever wonder why there isn't a trail from here or to there? We need to make it safer to walk or ride around town. A challenge for you is to help with this vision to see what is needed to make St. Helens a safer community for our children and ourselves. The trips to and from school should be safer for the students. Why can't we have paths that are user-friendly, scenic and fun to ride on? Perhaps we could have connecting paths and trails to loop around areas in and about various parts of town. If any of these ideas appeal to you, come and join the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission. Get involved and take some pride in making our city a better place.

When you make your New Year's resolutions this year, think about becoming a volunteer for one of the many other City boards that need volunteers.

- Library
- Planning
- Budget
- Parks
- Arts and Culture
- Youth Council

Applications are available online or at City Hall.

Happy Holidays,
Keith Locke



Ginny Carlson

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all. I know this year has been challenging to many, but so too

have been the joys and successes. I see many new small businesses along our main street. The school is beginning construction soon on new facilities. The City continues to move forward promoting Halloweentown and tourism endeavors, as well as development of the waterfront.

This year I am excited to again be putting together the holiday scavenger hunt for the kids with help from the Youth Council and the City. This year we depart from the "Elf Hunt" with the release of a new "Olaf Adventure."

Do you want to find a snowman?

Kids can go from business to business with their game sheet, find snowmen, then return the completed card to City Hall for a great holiday surprise. Taking feedback from last year, the prizes are appropriate for boys and girls and for a wider age range. Game sheets are available at Bertucci's, Gamepath Arcade, Richardson's Furniture and City Hall. The School District also emailed cards to every elementary school home in the district and cards were forwarded to Arthur Academy and the Christian School. The Chronicle will also partner with promoting where it can. I hope the kids have lots of community-friendly family fun.

I took this over last year when I heard from the local group SHEDCO that it would not be offered because they had feedback from local businesses that they were not enthusiastic. However last year, in going door to door on main street, so many businesses wanted it that I added a row to the game. This year, even with one business closing, I still didn't have enough spaces to offer all that were interested! It warmed my heart to see this spirit of cooperation and willingness to work together for our children and community. I hope this is just the beginning of even better relationships between local businesses and the City.

Ginny Carlson



Susan Conn

Home is where the heart is and my heart and home are here, in St. Helens, where we find much to celebrate despite rainy weather,

economic stress and divisive issues.

One of the things that drew me to St. Helens was the community spirit, demonstrated by the many parades, festivals and celebrations, held rain or shine and for any excuse.

I was impressed by a community with a schedule of events that included Historic Days, where my youngest son was guided through the process of making a hoof pick by a local blacksmith and the survival skills of our founders were commemorated.

Where 4th of July was celebrated, not just with fireworks, but with games, family picnics and a volunteer performance by generations of former high school musicians.

Where a summertime Jaycees parade culminated in a carnival with Port O' Fun.

Where merchant groups organized, collaborated and decorated for holidays and marketed with city-wide sales events like Spooktacular, and where the street was closed so children could have their own Halloween Little Spooks Parade.

Where 4-H kids still competed at the County Fair and had an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they'd learned. Where bakers and quilters and artists displayed their handiwork. Where local businesses advertised their wares while carnies hawked their games and rides, for the entertainment of all.

Yes, I fell in love with small town America, its spirit and its resilience.

St. Helens has nearly doubled in size since then, and we have faced mill closures, increased unemployment, a recession and resulting issues. Recently, we received news that another of our primary manufacturers will be shutting down and families will be impacted. Again our resources will be stretched; our hope for the future tested.

Our goal will be to attract new businesses, new manufacturers and investors that recognize the spirit of this community, our livability and our vision for the future.

St. Helens has suffered setbacks before, and we will be looking for solutions. Still, we find things to celebrate and we look to the future.

Susan Conn

Nob Hill Nature Park Improvements

The City of St. Helens recently completed several improvements to Nob Hill Nature Park, including a staircase with signage, an information kiosk, and improved parking. The staircase and kiosk were funded in part through a grant from the Oregon Public Health Institute's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign.

Nob Hill Nature Park is a 6.6 acre oak woodland refuge perched on a basalt bluff on the St. Helens riverfront. The park has views that overlook the convergence of the Columbia River and Multnomah Channel and the northern end of Sauvie Island. It is filled with native white oak trees, as well as shrubs, wildflowers and lilies. Many residents use the one-third mile nature walking trail to birdwatch and study nature.

The new Nob Hill Nature Park staircase connects the interim half-mile gravel walking trail on the former Boise Veneer site to the Nob Hill Nature Park trail above the bluff. It also formalizes the entrance to the park with signage. By enhancing safe access between the waterfront and Nob Hill Nature Park, it is anticipated that long-term usage of both trails will increase.

An information kiosk was also installed at Nob Hill Nature Park's main entrance on Plymouth Street across from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The kiosk includes information about the park's habitat, native plants, non-native plants, restoration work, and upcoming projects. The wooden sign affixed to the kiosk was created and donated by Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park.

The staircase and kiosk were installed by the City of St. Helens' Public Works staff and funded in part with a \$5,000 grant from the HEAL Cities Campaign. The HEAL Cities Campaign, active in Oregon since 2012, is a partnership between the Oregon Public Health Institute, the League of Oregon Cities and Kaiser Permanente to help civic leaders create healthy communities.

St. Helens Public Works staff also improved and formalized the small parking area and trail entrance used by visitors to Nob Hill Nature Park from the end of South 4th Street.

City Council Contacts and Assignments

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Administration Department, Communications

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Keith Locke, Councilor keithl@ci.st-helens.or.us
Police Department, Community Development Department, Builders Review Board, Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (Alternate), St. Helens Youth Council

Susan Conn, Councilor susanc@ci.st-helens.or.us
Library Department, Arts & Cultural Commission, Library Board, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District, St. Helens Economic Development Corp.

Ginny Carlson, Councilor ginnyc@ci.st-helens.or.us
Planning Commission, St. Helens Youth Council

St. Helens Riverfront Connector Plan

Many years ago, the City of St. Helens identified Old Portland Road as a key corridor needing major transportation improvements. The City began the process of applying for a grant to create a corridor master plan in 2012 that would help guide the necessary upgrades to the City's transportation system. In the initial pre-application meetings, the City wanted the plan to incorporate a business loop that included Highway 30, Columbia Boulevard, St. Helens Street, South 1st Street, and Old Portland Road. However, after the grant was awarded, it was obvious that the scope of work was too large for the funding that the City received, and the Corridor Master Plan project was refined to focus on Highway 30 and the Columbia Boulevard/St. Helens Street couplet.

With the City's purchase of the waterfront property, the City started to work on riverfront revitalization efforts. These efforts built on the recommendations established from previous projects. These planning projects underscored what the City already knew; Old Portland Road is a key connection with traffic pattern issues that need to be addressed. In particular, waterfront redevelopment projects identified the intersections of Plymouth Road/South 6th Street and Old Portland Road/13th Street/Plymouth Street as deficient intersections in the main route from Highway 30 to the waterfront.

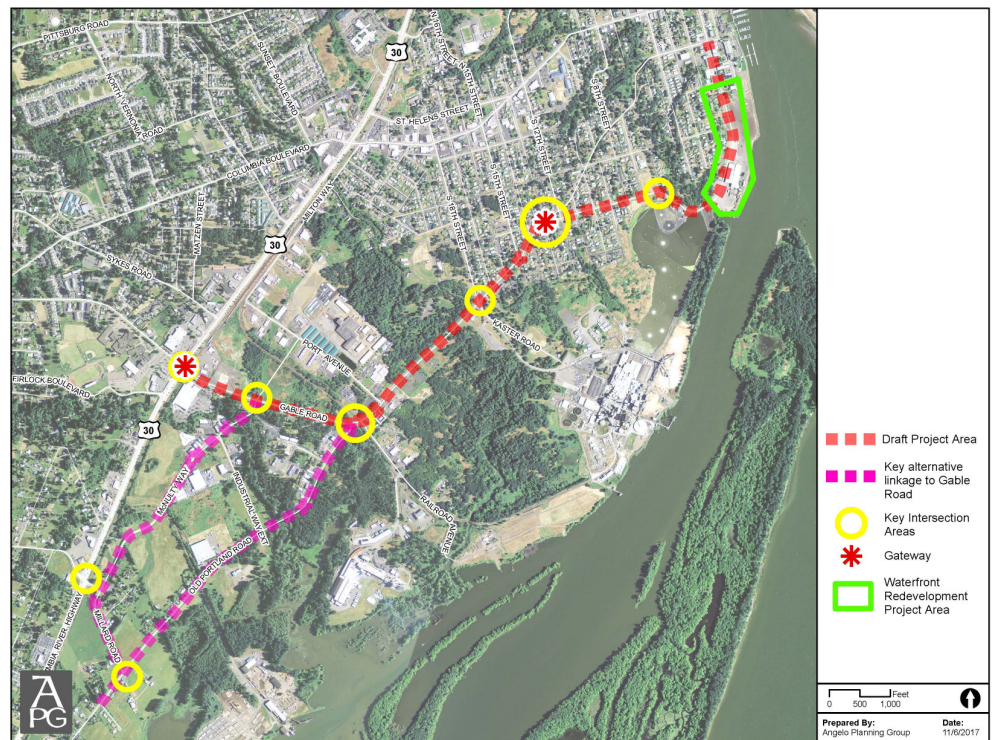
To help address the transportation needs, the City applied for another grant, and in June 2016 was awarded a planning grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program to create a Riverfront Connector Plan.

The Plan will set the framework for a cohesive, multi-modal, inviting loop from Highway 30 to the Riverfront District and along the waterfront. The Riverfront Connector Plan will also complete the City's business loop planning concept which includes the [U.S. 30 & Columbia Blvd./St. Helens Street Corridor Master Plan](#) adopted in 2015.

The project area includes some of the main roads in St. Helens, including Gable Road east of Highway 30, Old Portland Road, and a portion of South 1st Street. Several key intersections have also been identified for improvement plans. These intersections include:

- Millard Road/Highway 30
- Gable Road/Highway 30
- Gable Road/Old Portland Road
- Kaster Road/South 18th Street/Old Portland Road

The Riverfront Connector planning process will kick off in January 2018 with anticipated adoption in the spring of 2019. There will be multiple opportunities to attend and provide input throughout the planning process. The tentative work plan includes three public meetings to hear and incorporate



community feedback while the plan is being developed, in addition to a public work session and two public hearings where people can provide comments. If you are interested in attending these meetings, follow the [City's Facebook Page](#) and subscribe to the [City's E-Newsletter](#) where specific details will be provided as dates and times are set.

The grant awarded to the City to help complete this project is \$208,550. This is a matching grant and requires that the City contribute an additional \$28,470 which can be achieved with an in-kind match, such as staff hours.

This project is partially funded by a grant from the TGM Program, a joint program of ODOT and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. This TGM grant is financed, in part, by the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act ("FAST Act"), local government, and State of Oregon funds.

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Contact Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner at jdimsho@ci.st-helens.or.us or 503-366-8207.

Reference Links

Project Website: <http://www.riverfrontconnectorplan.com/>

Waterfront Project: <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/planning/page/waterfront-redevelopment-project>

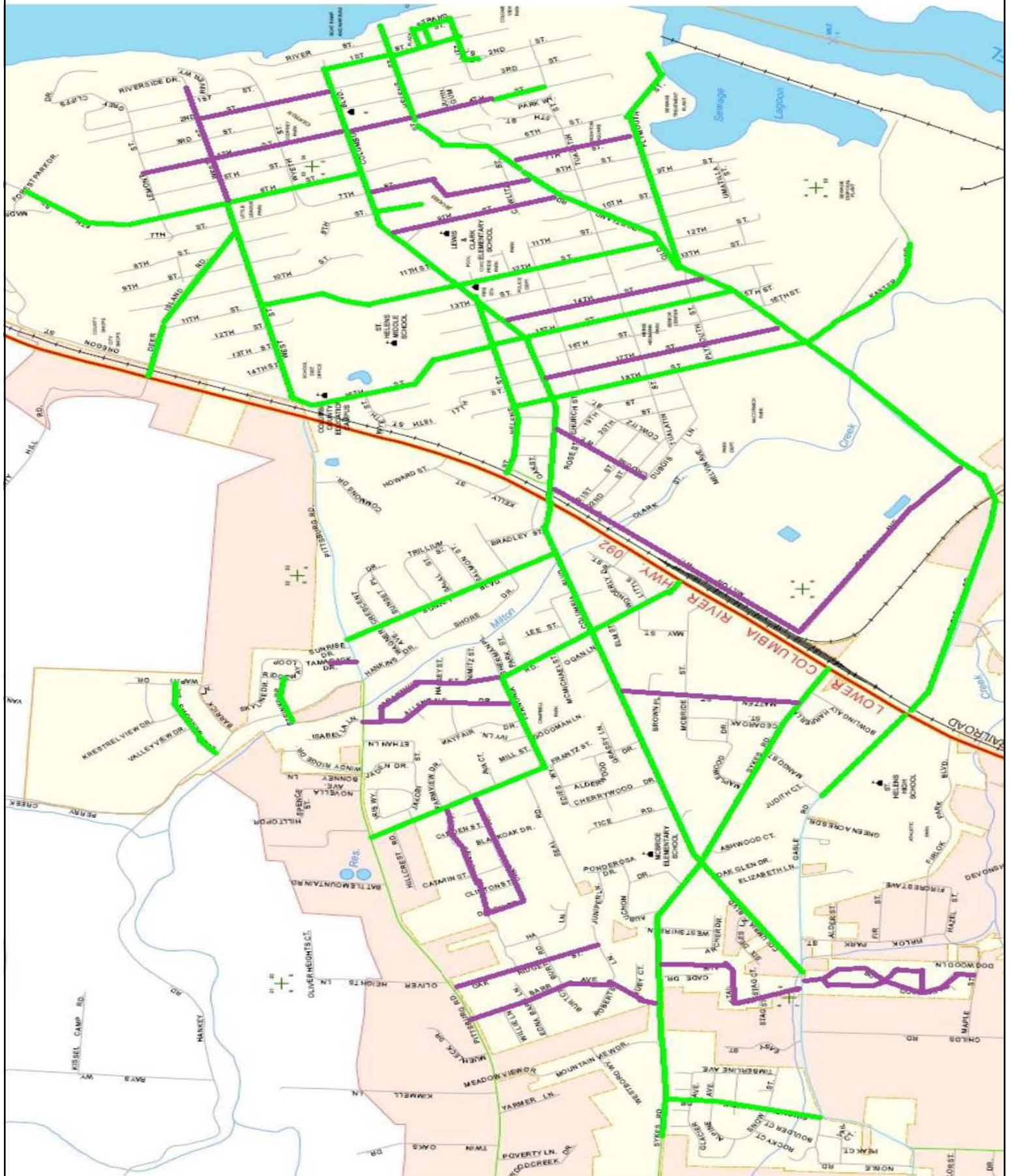
City's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofsthelens>

City Newsletters: <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/community/page/newsletters>

Snow Plow Map

Primary

Secondary



St. Helens Public Library

375 S. 18th Street
St. Helens, OR 97051
503-397-4544

HOURS

Mon. through Thurs.: 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Sunday: Closed



Fee Changes and New Programs Coming to St. Helens Public Library in 2018

Many organizations, whether in the government or the private sector, participate in strategic planning. At its most basic, strategic planning is about making a plan for an organization's future. Without a plan, an organization doesn't have any clear directions or goals. Strategic planning is a process that helps an organization set priorities, define a strategy, and decide how to allocate resources and energy to accomplish its strategy.

In 2016, the St. Helens Library Board engaged a library consultant to help the St. Helens Public Library through a strategic planning process. This process was partially funded by a grant from the Ford Family Foundation and involved local educators, community members, the St. Helens Library Board, and Library staff.

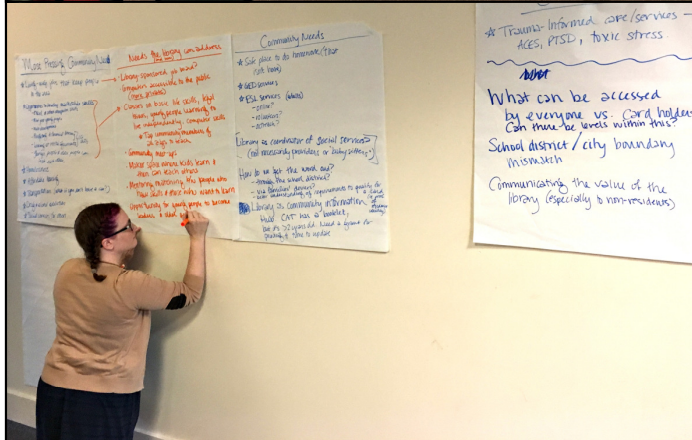
The goal was to create a five-year dynamic service plan for the St. Helens Public Library that responds to current issues in the community, establishes priorities for Library services, programs and activities, and provides the foundation for revitalizing the Library facility.

The strategic plan was adopted by the City Council in 2017 and can be read on the Library's website: <http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/library>.

One of the four goals in the strategic plan is to reduce barriers to accessing St. Helens Public Library services. To begin formulating a plan to accomplish this goal, a working group of Library staff members and Library Board members

met to review community feedback, an environmental scan, and Library data.

The Library heard in community feedback sessions and



In 2016, the St. Helens Public Library went through a strategic planning process.

focus groups that fines and fees -- whether people actually owed money or were just afraid of accruing fines -- kept people away from the Library.

Additionally, joining a passport program where St. Helens Public Library card holders can apply to use other libraries would dramatically increase access to more materials. Finally, creating a process through which the Columbia Center meeting rooms (which the library administers) could be used outside of regular Library hours would increase the number of groups that would be able to make use of the beautiful building in which the Library exists.

After reviewing the data, the group put together a list of recommended changes which the St. Helens City Council approved on October 18, 2017.

On the following page, a list of the changes is described along with a few frequently asked questions (F.A.Q.s). These adopted changes will go into

effect on January 1, 2018. While the Library is excited that these changes are happening, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that needs to be done before they can go into effect. For example, Library staff will need to edit more than 45,000 records to change the replacement cost for every single item in the Library.

New Library Fees & Programs in 2018

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s)

What's changing?

City Council Resolution No. 1804 made six changes to the St. Helens Public Library fees and programs:

1. Reintroducing quarterly payments for non-resident library cards. Users can now pay \$10 for three months of Library access in addition to having the option to pay \$35 for a year of Library access.
2. Eliminating overdue fines on children's and teen materials.
3. Reducing fines on most adult materials (everything except DVDs and cultural passes) from 25 cents per day to 15 cents per day and reducing the maximum fine per item from \$15 to \$10.
4. Lowering lost and damaged item replacement fees to more accurately reflect the actual cost to the Library. The replacement fee for all materials will be the original list price of the item. The fee for a lost or damaged DVD or CD case will be \$5, and the fee for a lost or damaged DVD or CD paper insert will be \$7.
5. Joining the Oregon Library Passport Program on a one-year trial basis.
6. Making the Columbia Center meeting rooms available outside of normal Library operating hours if staffing availability permits for a fee of \$45 per hour.

When do these changes take effect?

The changes are effective January 1, 2018.

Will I still have to pay the fines and fees that are currently on my account?

Yes, St. Helens Public Library users will still be responsible for any overdue fines as well as lost or damaged item fees that

were accrued before January 1, 2018, when the old fee schedule was still in effect.

Without overdue fines on children's and teen materials, what will make anyone bring back their items to the Library?

Once a Library item is more than 21 days overdue, it is assumed lost and the borrower is charged the lost item replacement fee and the borrower's account is blocked until the item is returned or paid for. This policy will still be in place. The elimination of overdue fines on children's and teen materials is meant to offer more flexibility to families, but Library materials still must be returned to the Library in a timely fashion.

What is the Oregon Library Passport Program?



The Oregon Library Passport Program is an initiative of the Oregon Library Association. Cardholders at Passport member libraries have reciprocal borrowing privileges -- that is, St. Helens Public Library cardholders will now be able to use their library card to obtain a card at any other Passport library, including Scappoose Public Library, Multnomah County Library, and the Washington County libraries.

There are sometimes restrictions -- for example, people with cards at other Passport libraries will not be able to check out Cultural Passes from the St. Helens Public Library. Library items must be returned to the library from which they were checked out. There is no additional fee to use your St. Helens Public Library card to obtain a card at another Passport library, nor is there an additional fee to use the St. Helens Public Library if you are already a cardholder at another Passport library.

For more information and a list of participating libraries, see the Oregon Library Passport Program website: <https://librariesoforegon.org/passport>.



Library Holiday Schedule & Story Times

The Library will be closed December 25, December 26, January 1, and January 15 in observance of Christmas, New Years, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Due to holiday closures and winter break at schools, there will be no story times at the Library from December 25 through January 6. Normal story times will resume on January 9.

Civics for Adults Programs Offered at Library

The St. Helens Public Library hosted its first civics workshop highlighting misinformation, fake news and political propaganda on September 21, 2017. The four-part series, called Civics for Adults, is designed to enhance civic knowledge and inspire political engagement. Led by Donna L. Cohen, a teacher and librarian, the workshops are non-partisan, free to the public, and no pre-registration is required.

The second workshop is "Citizen Activism 101: Making Change Happen" This workshop will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 7 p.m. Participants wanting to improve life for themselves or their neighbors or those that have concerns about local, state, or federal laws will learn strategies for change. Topics covered will include examples of successful advocacy, a brief historical perspective, choosing your battles, what matters to you, who makes the rules, tools for change, and tracking civic and political issues. The workshop will take place while the State legislature is in session. Discussion will also center around what is going on in the legislature and how to make your mark.

"The Influence of the Constitution on Political Conversation" is the third workshop and will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7 p.m. Cohen will talk about the creation of the Constitution, examine myths about the Constitution, and guide attendees in developing a broader

perspective of its significance which will help people evaluate current political events more thoughtfully.

The final workshop, "Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing," is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7 p.m. This unique workshop will cover 20 topics related to the United States electoral systems and present specific ideas for bi-partisan civic and political engagement. Some of the topics that will be covered include voting as a Constitutional right, voter rights, voter fraud, instant runoff elections, redistricting, superdelegates, Electoral College, campaign financing, contribution limits, dark money, and public attitudes about money



Attendees listen to presenter Donna Cohen at the first Civics for Adults workshop at the St. Helens Public Library.

in politics.

Donna L. Cohen worked in New England social service agencies in the 1970s. From New England, she came to Oregon, received her Master of Education, and taught Industrial Arts for the next 12 years. After returning from the Peace Corps in 1994, where she taught at a college of education in Botswana, she went to library school at the University of British Columbia. In 1996, she returned to Oregon and started a career as an information professional. She continues to perform occasional on-call reference services for Beaverton City Library.

Annual Recycled Book Art Show

The Friends of the St. Helens Public Library are sponsoring the third annual Recycled Book Art Show which will be exhibited at the Library throughout the month of February 2018.

Recycled book art includes collage, assemblages, wall hangings, sculpture, and other 2- or 3-dimensional artwork. Functional designs are also accepted.

If you are interested in submitting artwork for the Recycled Book Art Show, submissions will be accepted at the St. Helens Public Library, 375 S. 18th Street, St. Helens, on Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Keep in mind that pieces of artwork will be displayed at the Library and should be sized accordingly and easy to display.

Library Board Book Club

The St. Helens Public Library Board has launched a new book club and you're invited to attend! The group held its first meeting on October 19, 2017. Unlike traditional book clubs where everyone reads the same title and then meets to discuss the book, the St. Helens Public Library Book Club selects a theme for their meeting. Each person is invited to read a book within the chosen theme and then come to the meeting to discuss their selection. In keeping with the October holiday, the first book club theme was mystery with a Halloween twist.

"The Halloween-themed kick off for the Book Club was a spooktacular success," said Leanne Murray, co-leader of the book club and Vice-Chair of the St. Helens Library Board. "Ten of us were introduced to new books and

authors and had a lot of fun discussing them. We're off to a great start."

The next Book Club meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, at 7 p.m. inside the St. Helens Public Library. The January theme is food. Books can be fiction or nonfiction. If you need help selecting a title to read, the Library has a collection of themed books set aside for each meeting. All you need to do is go to the Library's circulation desk and ask to see the collection.

The St. Helens Public Library Book Club is being facilitated by members of the Library Board. You can sign up at the Library's circulation desk to be on the email list for meeting updates. If you have any questions about the Book Club, you can contact Vice-Chair Leanne Murray at leannepm67@yahoo.com.

Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park & Scappoose Bay Watershed Council: A Natural Partnership

By Caroline Skinner, *Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park*

The Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park (NHNP) and Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC) have worked together for more than a decade on natural area conservation. SBWC provides native plants for work parties and plantings at the 6.6-acre park in St. Helens, in addition to its other projects in Columbia County and northern Multnomah County. Plants provided by SBWC's native plant nursery help fill in areas where volunteers have removed non-native plants and weeds. Now the Friends of NHNP are returning the favor by helping to re-supply SBWC's native plant nursery with cuttings from the park.

According to its website, the SBWC's mission is to promote and support a healthy watershed through projects that protect and restore native fish, wildlife, and plants, and to work with the community to educate and encourage participation in enhancing and enjoying their natural surroundings. The SBWC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-regulatory organization with a diverse group of volunteers. The Council serves as a source of information about the watershed for residents, visitors, local groups and partners. Friends of NHNP is a small, all-volunteer group dedicated to stewardship at the park in St Helens.

The NHNP ethic is, "Take only your memories and leave only your footsteps." This winter, with our blessing, SBWC will come to the park to take plant cuttings for use to start new

plants; some of them may even return to the park later. The cuttings will be dipped in rooting hormone then planted and nurtured by SBWC volunteers. This illustrates one way that nature parks can serve as a repository or source for seeds and plant material that ultimately will be used in other restoration areas.

The SBWC native plant nursery obtains seedlings and plant starts from a variety of sources. Project Manager Amber Kester said they have taken plant cuttings from some of SBWC's restoration sites for about the last three years, and she'd like to see some new sources. While the one goal is to keep a degree of genetic diversity, another goal is to keep the plant sourcing local. Obtaining plant material from NHNP meets both those goals by collecting from a new source, yet one that is in the same county and zip code.

Friends of NHNP are grateful to the SBWC for the plants that they have provided over the years. In Spring 2018, Friends of NHNP hope to continue removing invasive lunaria and blackberry from along the lower edge of the oak woodland. It will also be a good opportunity to fill in the newly-cleared area with mahonia, snowberry, sword fern, fringe cup, ocean spray and choke cherry, all of which are already commonly found there. The goal is to stabilize the slope and to fill the area before blackberry and lunaria return in large numbers. Spring is also a good time to observe an abundance of native wildflowers, including fawn lilies, checker lilies, prairie star, western buttercup and camas.

Volunteers make the difference for both groups. SBWC always welcomes new volunteers on Thursday mornings of most weeks. It is recommended to sign up for the volunteer email list with Amber Kester before attending. Friends of NHNP hold volunteer work parties twice yearly, on the first Saturday in April and again in November. Volunteering is a good way to see the park, meet new friends, and have fun. SBWC is always looking for individual volunteers or groups to get involved, including helping with planting and clean-up days, working in the native plant nursery and helping with special projects. For more information about volunteering for SBWC or NHNP, contact Pat or Amber at 503-397-7904.

One of the biggest joys of nurturing native plants is the ability to come back, years later, to see the plants growing well, and to know that volunteers have made a difference in the natural environment by supporting its ecological integrity. For more information, go to the SBWC website at <http://www.scappoosebay-wc.org> or follow the Friends of NHNP on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Nob-Hill-Nature-Park-1156887551001988/?ref=br_rs.

Nob Hill Nature Park Fall Work Party

On November 4, 2017, the Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park held their semiannual work party. With the assistance of Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, volunteers helped remove invasive plants and plant native plantings along the new staircase entrance from the City's waterfront property.



City Recorder Becomes Master Municipal Clerk

In October 2017, St. Helens City Recorder Kathy Payne joined an elite group of 34 out of over 200 other city recorders in Oregon to earn the designation of Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

The IIMC is an international professional organization that promotes continuing education and certification for municipal clerks - known as city recorders in Oregon - around the world.

Payne earned her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation in 2011 and has been working toward the more advanced MMC designation since then. The MMC program is a continuing education program that prepares participants to perform complex municipal duties through extensive and rigorous education and professional contribution components.

To receive her MMC designation, Payne had to earn a variety of education and experience points. In order to do so, she became OAMR's Region I Director in 2014, covering Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties. She continues to serve as the Region I Director. Payne served as the OAMR's Newsletter Committee Chair from 2013 to 2017, sits on the OAMR Internet Committee, attended two professional development trainings in Tacoma at the Northwest Clerks Institute, attended 10 OAMR academies, and participated in three Athenian Leadership Society Dialogues, in addition to completing required continuing education class hours and attending professional development conferences.



Public Meetings Calendar

December

12/4	Youth Council	7 pm
12/6	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
12/11	Parks Commission	4 pm
12/12	Planning Commission	7 pm
12/12	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
12/18	Youth Council	7 pm
12/19	Arts & Cultural Commission	CANCELED
12/20	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
12/28	Bicycle & Pedestrian Comm.	CANCELED

January

1/3	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
1/8	Youth Council	7 pm
1/9	Planning Commission	7 pm
1/16	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
1/17	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
1/22	Youth Council	7 pm
1/23	Arts & Cultural Commission	5 pm

February

2/5	Youth Council	7 pm
2/7	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
2/12	Parks Commission	4 pm
2/13	Planning Commission	7 pm
2/19	Youth Council	7 pm
2/20	Library Board (Columbia Center)	7:15 pm
2/21	City Council Work Session	1 pm
	City Council Regular Session	7 pm
2/22	Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission	6:30 pm
2/27	Arts & Cultural Commission	5 pm

Meeting agendas, packets and minutes, along with any changes, are available to view on the City's website at www.ci.st-helens.or.us. Public Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 29.

2018 St. Helens Parks Reservations Calendar

The City will begin accepting park reservations for the 2018 calendar year on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Reservable park spots, particularly covered picnic shelters at McCormick Park and the gazebo at Columbia View Park, are very popular locations during the summer months.

Reservations fill up quickly, sometimes very early in the season. And while it is not required for a person to make a reservation to use a picnic area at a St. Helens park, making a park reservation guarantees you that the location that you would like to use is set aside for your exclusive use. Any unreserved park areas are useable on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like to reserve a spot at McCormick Park, Campbell Park or Columbia View Park, call City Hall at 503-397-6272 to make a tentative reservation. By making a tentative reservation, you are given first priority for the requested spot if multiple groups are looking to use the same area. After you have made a tentative reservation, you need to complete a Park Use Application. This application is available on the City's website by clicking on the Forms & Applications icon. Return the completed application to City Hall along with the appropriate fee(s).

Business License Renewals

St. Helens business license renewal letters for the 2018 calendar year were mailed at the end of October 2017. Businesses have until December 31 to return their renewal application and licensing fee to City Hall. Applications must be signed and dated to be considered complete. Business licenses cannot be processed until both the signed application and licensing fee are submitted.

Read the renewal letter and fee schedule carefully since business license fees have changed. Also make sure that all business contact information is up-to-date on the renewal form. Cross through any incorrect information and provide the updated information when returning the application to City Hall.